

## Ground Operations - ISDRA (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700446

### 1. Project Description

#### A. Statement of GO Activity

Through this grant application, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fund maintenance contracts in support of the OHV recreation program in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).

This application requests funding for the maintenance contracts to provide for trash collection and replacement signs made of VOC free recycled materials. Trash is collected at several sites throughout the ISDRA.

#### Matching Dollars

Contracts involving the vault toilets will be used as matching funds. Vault toilets are pumped three to four times a season on an as needed basis. They are also cleaned once a week during the season and daily during holiday periods. The maintenance of the facilities keeps the recreation area clean, safe and healthy for all future OHV visitors.

#### B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

##### Trash Removal

Removal of the trash from the recreation site has been an increasingly cumbersome task in the Imperial Sand Dunes. In the past, the BLM provided 40 yard trash bins (through OHV grant and fee funding) with open tops and they were emptied once a week. This resulted in several problems: an overflow of trash on holiday weekends causing unsanitary and unsightly conditions, it was difficult for visitors to reach over the top of the bin to place trash inside, and it was labor intensive for the BLM to pick up the overflow trash.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is concerned about the possible impacts to the desert tortoise by open trash bins because they could attract ravens and coyotes to the area that prey on the desert tortoise, a species classified as "Threatened", under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS's Biological Opinion now requires covered trash bins. If BLM fails to comply with their terms and conditions, OHV opportunity could be lost in the Imperial Sand Dunes. These grant funds help BLM protect OHV opportunities and the Desert Tortoise.

In FY 2006, the BLM replaced the 40 yard bins with six yard bins. The six yard bins are lower and provide easier access for the visitor. Although the bins are smaller, there are more bins per site and they are serviced more frequently, sometimes, several times per day. The new bins have lids to keep out ravens and coyotes and have resulted in less litter and overflow, thereby decreasing the possibility of artificially attracting a raven to desert tortoise habitat and helping to protect the desert tortoise species. The change has resulted in a cleaner and conservation oriented waste removal system. Currently, it is rare to have litter around the trash bins. After the trash is transported away from the site, it is taken to a sorting facility for recycling.

Funding of the trash bins reduce the amount of litter on the ground. This results in a direct reduction in the amount of time and money the BLM will spend picking up the trash by hand. In the past, before the new six yard dumpsters, BLM would spend tens of thousands of dollars on labor picking up trash each season.

##### Vault Toilets Maintenance

The 61 vault toilets in the Dunes reduce the amount of waste deposited on the ground in the open area and in the wilderness. Since the placement of new toilets in FY2007, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of toilet paper and human waste in the microphyll woodlands and creosote flat habitats. These areas are habitat for migratory birds, Colorado fringe toed lizard, and other endemic insect species.

Vault toilet cleaning is completed once a week during the regular weekends between October through May and once a

month during the rest of the year. The exception to this schedule are the busy holiday weekends. Holidays require daily cleaning and have resulted in a healthy and safer environment for the visitors. Without daily cleaning of the vault toilets on the holiday weekends, visitors are exposed to unsanitary conditions and disease.

Each vault toilet has an 1,000 gallon capacity. All toilets are pumped three to four times a season. The contractor is called as needed and the units are monitored by BLM.

### **C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles**

The Imperial Sand Dunes are the largest mass of sand dunes in California. This dune system extends for more than 40 miles along the eastern edge of the Imperial Valley agricultural region in a band averaging five miles in width. It is roughly bordered on the west by the New Coachella Canal and on the east by a Union Pacific Railroad line. The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area is approximately 159,072 acres in total. At this time, 83,253 acres are open to OHV used and 75,819 are closed to OHV recreation.

Trash bins and 61 vault toilets are located at Glamis, Gecko Road, Dunebuggy Flats Road, Buttercup and Midway Campgrounds. Each site consists of two to 20 covered six yard trash bins and multiple toilets.

### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) is the most popular off-highway vehicle area in the southwestern United States and provides a unique, world class recreation opportunity. Over 83,000 acres are designated as "open" to OHV use. There are no designated routes and OHV recreationalists are allowed to travel cross country. The northern most area is known as Mammoth Wash OHV Open Area. It receives low use and visitors to this area can experience solitude and still recreate on OHVs. South of Mammoth Wash is the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness established by the 1994 California Desert Protection Act. This area is closed to motorized recreation. The largest and most heavily used area begins at Highway 78, between Glamis and Gecko Road, and continues south past Buttercup to the Mexico border. Visitors in these areas will experience large crowds, fast OHVs, and a "show and shine" atmosphere. Commercial areas are set up for vending where OHV riders can go shopping, buy parts, have their OHV serviced, or buy a hot meal. The expansive dune formations offer picturesque scenery, opportunities for solitude, a chance to view rare plants and animals, and a playground for OHVs unmatched by any other area.

The area east of the ISDRA is managed under the Northern and Eastern Colorado plan and the area to the west is managed under the Western Colorado plan. OHV use is allowed on designated routes in both areas.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

(a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

## Additional Documentation

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700446

1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[ISDRA facility locations](#)

[ISDRA map](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[ISDRA dumpsters](#)

[redacted ISDRA trash contract](#)

## Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - El Centro Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations - ISDRA (FINAL)	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	G09-01-09-G01
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Through this grant application, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fund maintenance contracts in support of the OHV recreation program in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). This application requests funding for the maintenance contracts to provide for trash collection and replacement signs made of VOC free recycled materials. Trash is collected at several sites throughout the ISDRA.</p> <p>Matching Dollars</p> <p>Contracts involving the vault toilets will be used as matching funds. Vault toilets are pumped three to four times a season on an as needed basis. They are also cleaned once a week during the season and daily during holiday periods. The maintenance of the facilities keeps the recreation area clean, safe and healthy for all future OHV visitors.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
1	<b>Staff</b>						
2	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Trash Collection Notes : This line item is for the collection of trash from covered dumpsters in the Dunes.	1.000	200000.000	YR	180,000.00	20,000.00	200,000.00
	Other-Toilet Pumping Notes : This contract pumps out the 61 vault toilets on an as needed basis. They are usually pumped three to four times per year and each unit hold 1,000 gallons.	1.000	68000.000	YR	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
Application: Ground Operations - ISDRA (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Toilet Cleaning Notes : This contract cleans and restocks the 61 vault toilets in the dunes on a weekly basis and daily during peak periods.	1.000	105000.000	YR	0.00	105,000.00	105,000.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				180,000.00	193,000.00	373,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-replacement signs Notes : These are replacement signs. No posts will be installed and there will be no ground disturbance as part of this project. Signs will be made of recycled material and VOC free.	125.000	16.000	EA	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>					181,000.00	194,000.00	375,000.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					181,000.00	194,000.00	375,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>181,000.00</b>	<b>194,000.00</b>	<b>375,000.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
 Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
 Application: Ground Operations - ISDRA (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2	Contracts	180,000.00	193,000.00	373,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		181,000.00	194,000.00	375,000.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		181,000.00	194,000.00	375,000.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>181,000.00</b>	<b>194,000.00</b>	<b>375,000.00</b>	

## Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700446

### ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

#### ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

#### ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

### ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

The project does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is a continuing administrative and maintenance activity. The project is requesting funds to collect trash and replace existing signs. There will be no ground disturbance in this project.

### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

### ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

### ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

### ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

### ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

### ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

**ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**



## Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700446

### 1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

### 2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☐ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☐ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about possible impacts of open trash bins and overflowing dumpsters because they could attract ravens and coyotes to the area where they could prey on desert tortoise, a threatened species. Our Biological Opinion now requires covered trash bins. If BLM fails to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Service terms and conditions in the Biological Opinion, OHV opportunities could be lost in the Dunes. These grant funds could help protect OHV opportunities and the desert tortoise.

### 3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 5

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

These grant funds could help protect OHV opportunity, of varied levels of difficulty, for all OHV riders by keeping the area open for use. These projects help keep an OHV area open by providing clean, sanitary facilities for users of ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4s, Sand Rails, Side by Side, etc to recreate. We also request fund for replacing old and worn signs in the recreation area that provide information on safety, traffic patterns and area rules and regulations.

### 4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The El Centro field office has hosted both conference calls and stakeholder meetings with the American Desert Foundation, American Sand Association and United Desert Gateway. These meeting and conference calls were hosted in an effort to recognize the needs of our area visitors and focus our grant requests in an attempt to meet the public's needs while recreating in the ISDRA.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

United Desert Gateway, American Sand Association, Glamisweather.com, Imperial County, CA

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)  
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)  
☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)  
☐ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)  
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

The trash collection and toilet sites were identified and designated to be placed in locations that would not impact special-status species, riparian areas or cultural sites.

In addition to the trash collection contract, contracts involving the vault toilets will be used as matching funds. Vault toilets are pumped three to four times a season on an as needed basis. They are also cleaned once a week during the season and daily during holiday periods. The maintenance of the facilities keeps the recreation area clean, safe and healthy for all future OHV visitors.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is concerned about the possible impacts to the desert tortoise by trash left on the ground because this could attract ravens and coyotes to the area that prey on the desert tortoise, a species classified as "Threatened", under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS's Biological Opinion now requires covered trash bins.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Signs will be made from of recycled materials and be laminated with VOC free bonding resins.

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking  | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)    |   |